bomb blasts in the country during the last few months is at the behest of the Pakistan agency ISI;

(b) if so, whether Government have protested to Pakistan about the nefavious activities of ISI in India and/or any other international forum;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) It is a well-known fact that Pakistani agencies have been continuously supporting and sponsoring terrorist groups based in Pakistan to carry out subversive and terrorist activities in India, including in J & K.

The Pakistani State and its agencies continue to use terrorism as an instrument of policy and continue to sponsor the breeding and indoctrination of armed irregulars for carrying out subversive and terrorist activities elsewhere, including in neighbouring countries.

(b) to (d) Government have made it clear that Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross border infiltration and terrorism is unacceptable, and that Government would take the necessary measures to eradicate terrorism directed against India. Government have also been continuously taking appropriate and effective steps to apprise the international community of Pakistan's continued support and sponsorship of cross border terrorism and infiltration into India. Many countries have called upon Pakistan to end cross border terrorism and infiltration into India on a permanent basis, to dismantle infrastructure of support to terrorism, and to stop acting as platform for international terrorism.

Gurdwaras in Pakistan

3652. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the historical Gurdwaras in Pakistan are not maintained properly and require extensive maintenance and repair; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Government are aware of the reports that Sikh religious shrines in Pakistan are not being maintained properly and their sanctity is not being preserved.

(b) Under the Protocol on 'Visits to Religious Shrines' signed between India and Pakistan in September, 1974 it is the obligation of the concerned country to make every effort to ensure that the places of worship in the agreed list are properly maintained and their sanctity preserved. Government, from time to time, have taken up the issue with the Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels, including demarche made to Pakistani Cd'A recently, to express their concern regarding poor maintenance of religious shrines in Pakistan.

Loss of hydrocarbons due to US-Iraq War

3653. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US and allied forces have torched many oil fields in Iraq war;

(b) if so, the loss of hydrocarbon availability to the universe;

(c) whether there is any provision in the UN Charter that no country would destroy the natural gifted global utility sources in other country;

(d) if so, whether it may be enforced in war on Iraq; and

(e) what would be impact of the destruction of the Iraqi oilfields to economies of India and the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) A few oil fields have reportedly been set on fire during the war in Iraq. There is no definite information on what caused oil fields fires and the loss of hydrobarbon availability to the universe.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.